and what was the initial cost, estimated in the implementation of the plan;

(b) what is the number of the officials, if any, trained abroad in connection with the Scheme and what expenditure has been incurred by Government on the training of each of the officers;

(c) whether the project has been taken up for implementation, if not, what are the reasons for delay in its implementation and by what percentage the cost of the project is anticipated to escalate as a result thereof; and

(d) in what manner the services of the trained officials are presently being utilised?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Plans for computerisation of Freight Operations Information System were under examination during 1981 and 1982, and the project was included in 1983-84 Works Programme at an estimated cost of Rs. 520 crores.

(b) 35 officials have been trained abroad for this project, involving an expenditure of approximately Rs. 1.10 crores.

(c) Preliminaries for the project have been taken up.

(d) The officials trained are being utilised for software design and development.

Computerisation of Ports

*295. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to

(c) what are the financial implications theroef?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (c) All the operational major Ports namely, Bombay, Calcutta Cochin, Kandla, Madras, Mormugao Visakhapatnam, Paradip, New Mangalore and Tuticorin already have computer systems and have computerised some of their day-to-day operations. Nhava Sheva Port which is under construction also propose to provide Computer System at an aggregation cost about Rs. 22.70 crores.

The Government have set up a Task Force in July, 88 to consider various aspects of computerisation at major Ports in India. The details of recommendations with financial implications wil be known after the receipt of the report of the Task Force and decisions thereon.

Reconstitution of Divisional Railway Users Consultative Committee Palghat

*296. SHRI ARNGIL SREEDHARAN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Divisional Railway Users Consultative Committee, Palghat has not been reconstituted even though the term of the Committee had expired on the 31st December, 1987; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Committee has been reconstituted and the orders are under issue.

Tamil as medium of instruction in Navodaya Vidyalayas in Tamil Nadu

*297. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RE